

providing a Al_3Ti target;

providing a substrate;

forming a Ti layer over said substrate;

sputter depositing an Al_3Ti layer on said Ti layer using said Al_3Ti target;

and annealing said substrate at a temperature of at least 400 °C to promote absorption of Si into said Al_3Ti layer.

11. (Newly Added) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein an Al layer is deposited on said Al_3Ti layer.

12. (Newly Added) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising pattern-etching said Al layer thereby forming a wiring pattern.

13. (Newly Added) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the method further comprises forming an insulating layer between said substrate and said Al_3Ti layer.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 10-13 will be pending in the present application. Claim 10 is the independent claim.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC § 112 ¶ 2

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention. These claims have been cancelled, and as a result, this rejection is moot.

II. Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1- 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Wang* (U.S. Patent 5,604,155) . These claims have been cancelled. For at least the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that newly added claims are allowable over the reference to *Wang*.

Newly added claim 10, includes the limitation of

"...providing a Al_3Ti target; ...and...

...sputter depositing an Al_3Ti layer on said Ti layer using said Al_3Ti target..."

It is respectfully submitted that the reference to *Wang* lacks at least such a limitation, and therefore, claim 10, and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the reference to *Wang*. Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that all objections and rejections be withdrawn. Allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Except as otherwise stated in the previous Remarks, applicant notes that each of the amendments have been made to place the claims in better form for U.S. practice or to

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clarify the meaning of the claims; and not to distinguish the claims from applied art, otherwise narrow the scope, or to comply with other statutory provisions. Applicant reserves all entitled rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact William S. Francos, Esq. (Reg. No. 38,456) at (610) 375-3513 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0238 for any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

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